



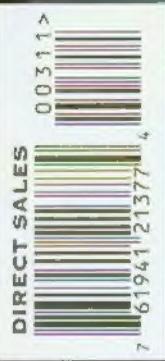
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# BABYLON IN VALEN'S NAME™

PART THREE OF THREE

BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,  
PETER DAVID, MICHAEL COLLINS  
AND DAVID ROACH



BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



OBI



AND WE PRAY, Z'ONDAR,  
THAT WE WILL BE ABLE  
TO PROVE OURSELVES  
WORTHY OF YOU ONCE  
MORE. THAT YOU WILL  
WELCOME US TO  
YOUR WAY... S

5 AUTO TRANSLATION OF  
TARTCHA ENGAGED

WE FELL FROM  
YOUR GRACE CENTURIES  
AGO. WE, YOUR LOYAL  
DISCIPLES, THE EXILES,  
THE WANDERERS.  
AND NOW WE HAVE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
RETURN TO YOUR  
GREATNESS...

...AND  
WE WILL NOT  
FAIL.

RAMDELA  
COZON.

YES,  
RAMDE.

OUR  
SHIPS ARE  
IN PLACE?

YES,  
RAMDE.

HAVE THEM  
HOLD POSITION. I WILL PERSONALLY  
LEAD THEM IN TO THE ENDE XTON.  
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT IN  
THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT  
WILL BE MOST  
DANGEROUS,  
RAMDE HAXTOR.

THE  
Z'ONDAR  
WOULD HAVE  
WANTED  
NOTHING  
LESS.

WHAT  
WE DO NOW...  
WE DO IN HIS  
NAME.

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# IN VALEN'S NAME

## BOOK THREE

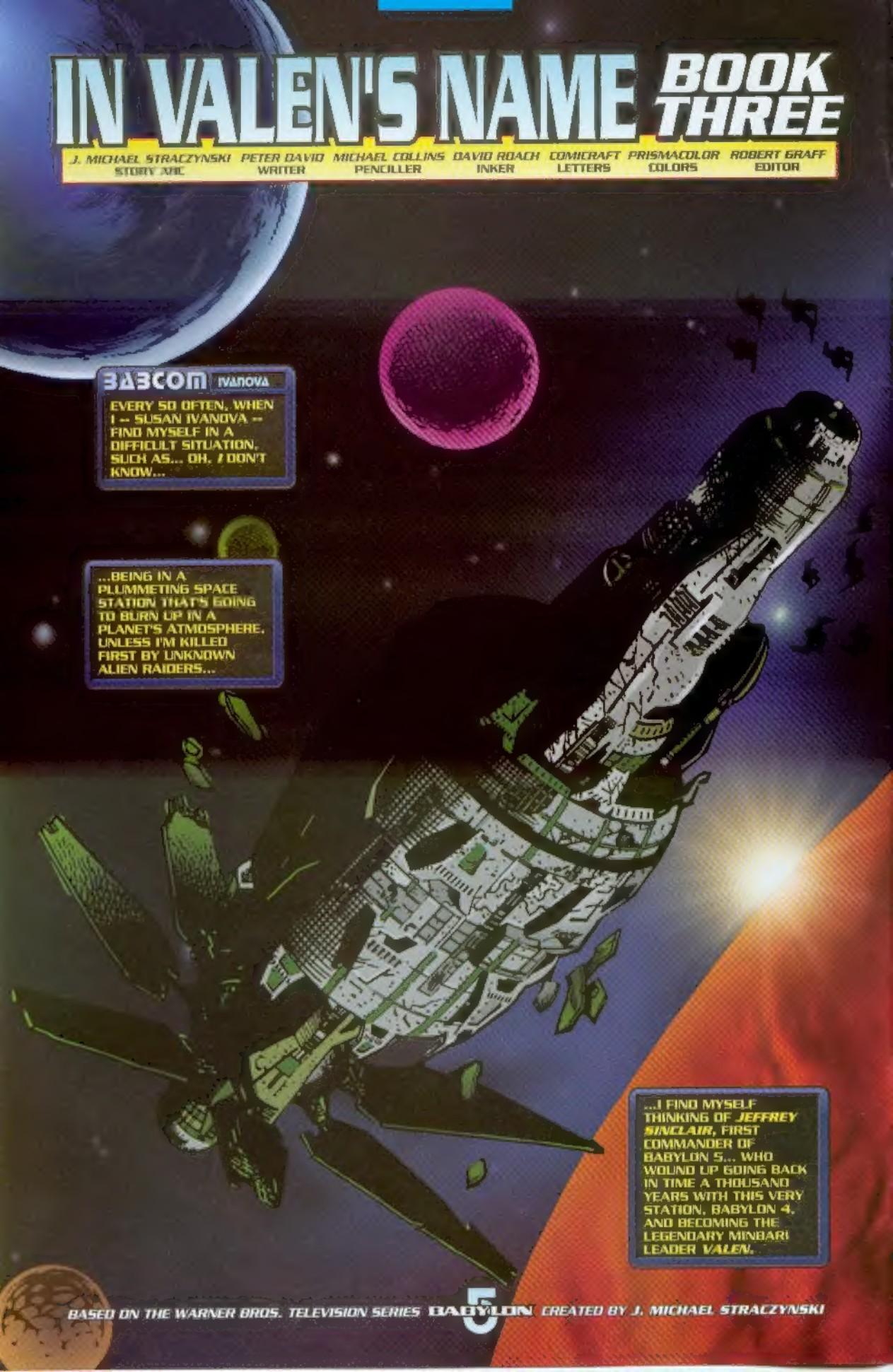
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BABCOM IVANOVA

EVERY SO OFTEN, WHEN I -- SUSAN IVANOVA -- FIND MYSELF IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION, SUCH AS... OH, I DON'T KNOW...

...BEING IN A PLUMMETING SPACE STATION THAT'S GOING TO BURN UP IN A PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE, UNLESS I'M KILLED FIRST BY UNKNOWN ALIEN RAIDERS...

...I FIND MYSELF THINKING OF JEFFREY SINCLAIR, FIRST COMMANDER OF BABYLON 5... WHO WOULD UP GOING BACK IN TIME A THOUSAND YEARS WITH THIS VERY STATION, BABYLON 4, AND BECOMING THE LEGENDARY MINARI LEADER VALEN.

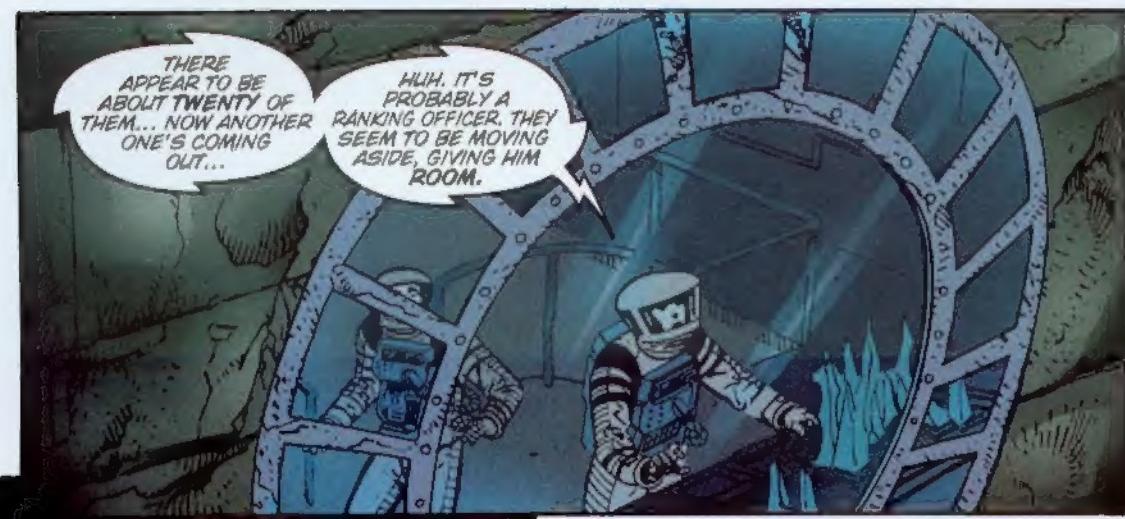




AND I WONDER TO  
MYSELF, WHAT  
WOULD COMMANDER  
JEFFREY SINCLAIR  
*DO* IN A SITUATION  
LIKE THIS?

THEN I TRY TO PICTURE  
HIM BENDING OVER AND  
KISSING HIMSELF  
*GOOD-BYE*.

THAT'S USUALLY  
ABOUT WHERE  
THE SPECULATION  
ENDS.





"WE WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO COME TO HIM. WE WERE THERE, WHEN HE DELIVERED HIS 'TIMES TO COME' SPEECH AT THE PEAK OF MOUNT HLEYA ON MINBAR.



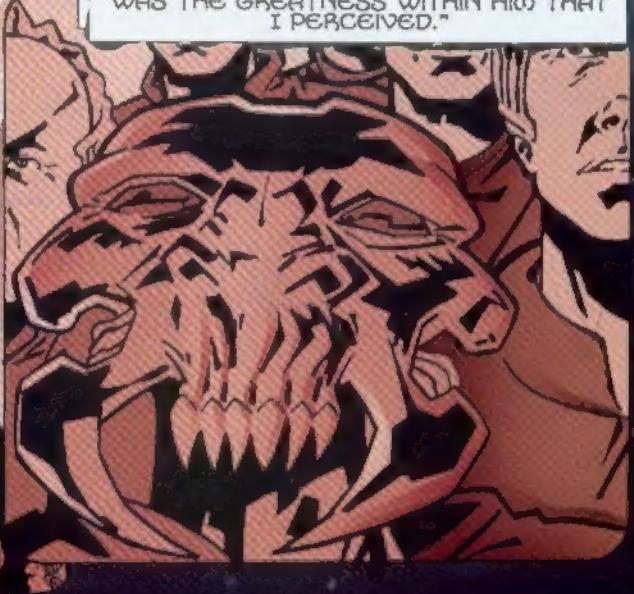
"I WAS THERE IN THE CROWD. I WAS STRUCK BY HIS VISION, BY HIS CERTAINTY AND CHARISMA.



"AND HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY POWERFUL BEINGS, VORLONS, WHO SEEMED AS IF THEY HAD BEEN SENT BY TAK'CHA GODS THEMSELVES. HOW, INDEED, COULD WE REFUSE TO JOIN VALEN IN HIS HOLY WAR?



"I WAS THE FIRST OF THE FIRST OF HIS DISCIPLES, AND I WOULD GLADLY HAVE LAID DOWN MY LIFE FOR HIM. FOR SUCH WAS THE GREATNESS WITHIN HIM THAT I PERCEIVED."



"VALEN EVEN BASED THE MAIN WEAPON OF THE ANLA-SHOK UPON A TAKSCHA WEAPON CALLED A BARBKEN. I GAVE HIM HIS FIRST GROUNDINGS IN IT..."

"ALTHOUGH I READILY ADMIT THAT THE PUPIL QUICKLY OUTSTRIPPED THE TEACHER."



DISTRACTED?  
YOU DISPATCH ME SO  
EASILY... AND YOU WERE  
DISTRACTED? HUMILIATE  
ME A BIT MORE, VALEN,  
IF YOU WISH.

WHAT  
TROUBLES  
YOU, GREAT  
ONE?

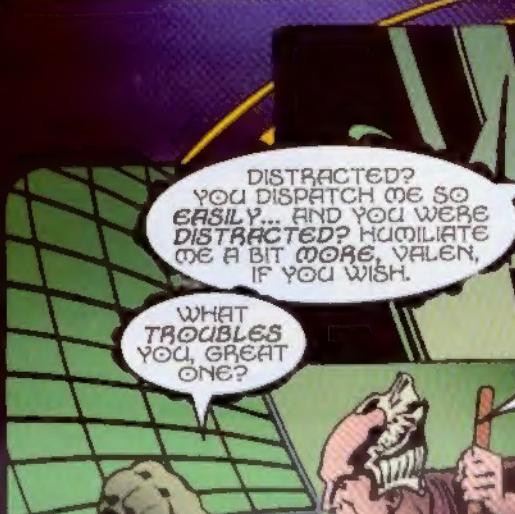
WHAT WOULD YOU DO,  
ZARWIN, IF YOU KNEW OF A GREAT  
WAR TO COME... ONE THAT WOULD BE  
CAUSED BY MISUNDERSTANDING... AND  
YOU HAD IT WITHIN YOUR POWER TO  
PREVENT THE WAR...

BUT  
DARED  
NOT.

I... DO  
NOT UNDERSTAND,  
VALEN. WHY WOULD  
YOU DESIRE TO  
DO THAT?

DO  
WHAT?  
PREVENT  
A WAR.

WHAT?



GLORY IS FOUND IN WAR. THERE IS NO GREATER DEATH THAN ONE FOUND IN BATTLE ON BEHALF OF A GREATER CAUSE.

WHY WOULD YOU WISH TO DENY ANYONE THAT WONDROUS MEANS OF DEPARTING THIS SPHERE?

ZARWIN... WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT BELIEF?

WHY... FROM YOUR TEACHINGS, GREAT ONE.



GREAT ONE... HAVE I ANGERED YOU IN SOME WAY?

NO, NO. I SIMPLY FIND IT INTERESTING WHAT DIFFERENT PEOPLE TAKE AWAY FROM MY TEACHINGS. SPACE MAY EXIST IN A VACUUM...

...BUT THE THINGS I SAY OBVIOUSLY DO NOT.

SUSAN,  
GET DELENN  
ON.

I'M HERE,  
JOHN.

DELENN,  
THERE'S AN ARRAY  
OF CONTROLS TO MY  
RIGHT AND LEFT,  
TRIANGULAR, RED AND  
GREEN RESPECTIVELY.  
ANY IDEA WHAT  
THEY ARE?

I'M NOT CERTAIN.  
THEY COULD BE OFFENSIVE  
AND DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS,  
BUT THERE'S NO WAY  
TO BE SURE.

WELL, WITH ANY LUCK, I WON'T  
NEED THEM. STAY IN CLOSE  
TOUCH WITH MICHAEL, FIND OUT  
HOW HE'S COMING WITH  
ESCAPE VESSELS.

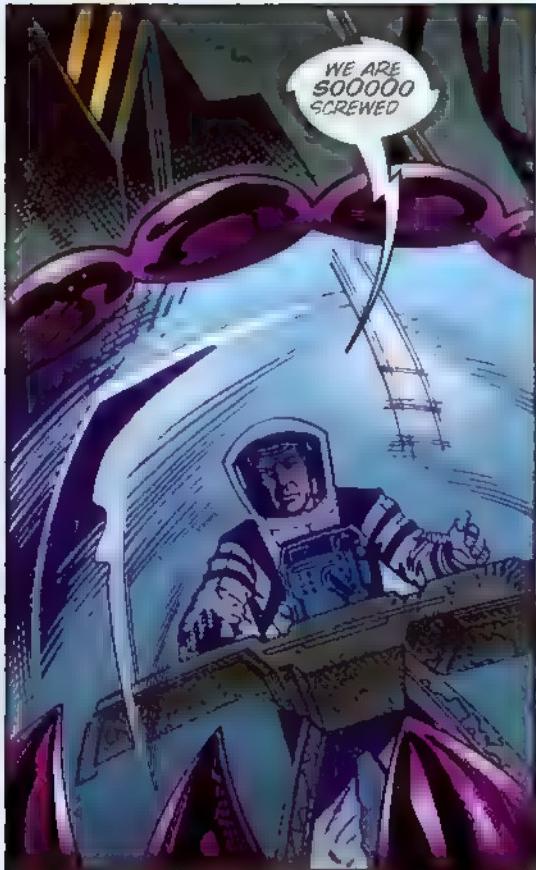
I'M GOING  
TO DO WHAT I  
CAN OUT  
HERE.

**BAZCOM** IVANOW

I'VE SEEN JOHN  
SHERIDAN FLY WITH  
MORE CONFIDENCE THAN  
ANY OTHER PILOT I'VE  
EVER KNOWN. HIS  
SKITTISHNESS ABOUT  
THE CONTROLS IS  
EVIDENT TO ME.

I JUST HOPE TO GOD IT'S  
NOT OBVIOUS TO OUR  
FRIENDS OUT THERE,  
BECAUSE I THINK I  
KNOW WHAT HE'S  
PLANNING TO DO.





AW CRAP! CAPTAIN,  
WHAT --?

WHO'S THE  
DESIGN GENIUS  
WHO PUT A WEAPONS  
SYSTEM WHERE THE  
THRUSTERS  
SHOULD  
BE?!

GET OUT  
OF THERE,  
JOHN!  
HURRY!

WE ALLOWED THEM TO  
APPROACH, AND THIS  
IS THE RESPONSE  
WE GET!

ALL WINGS,  
FOLLOW ME.  
BUT STAY  
BACK! THIS  
KILL IS  
MINE!

GREAT.  
JUST GREAT. WITH  
MY LUCK, THIS IS THE  
SELF-DESTRUCT  
COMMAND INSTEAD  
OF --



"ONE DAY, VALEN SAID TO  
MYSELF AND TWO OTHER  
CLOSE ALLIES, NOHENN  
AND BASHOB, COME TO ME  
FOR THERE ARE IMPORTANT  
THINGS I MUST DISCUSS  
WITH YOU. I WAS BROUGHT  
TO HIM FIRST..."

I AM HERE AS YOU REQUESTED, GREAT ONE. WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?

THEY WILL BE ALONG ZARWIN

I HAVE DONE A GREAT DEAL OF THINKING, AND I HAVE DECIDED TO TRUST THE THREE OF YOU WITH A MISSION. YOU WILL EACH BE ASSIGNED THE SAME ONE.

BY THAT REPETITION, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT ONE OF YOU, AT LEAST, WILL ACCOMPLISH IT.

I SHALL NOT LET YOU DOWN, VALEN. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE OF ME?

THERE IS A DETAILED MESSAGE IN HERE... FOR ONE CALLED DELENN. BUT SHE IS NOT OF NOW. SHE IS OF THE FAR FUTURE.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE TO HOLD IT FOR HER, AND GIVE IT TO HER --

-- SO THAT A GREAT MISUNDERSTANDING CAN BE AVOIDED --

"THERE SEEMED TO BE A SORT OF ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR. THE VORLON SAID NOTHING, BUT MERELY HOVERED NEAR VALEN. NOR DID VALEN SPEAK."

"AND YET...  
SOMEHOW, IT  
SEEMED AS IF  
THEY WERE..."

"...ARGUING..."

YES, YOU  
ARE RIGHT, OF  
COURSE.

I KNEW  
ALL THAT... AND  
YET SOMEHOW I  
FELT THAT. IF I  
MERELY ALLOWED  
SO MANY TO  
DIE...

THERE IS,  
BUT ONLY  
ONE.

...HOWEVER...  
THERE IS NO  
CHOICE, IS THERE?

I APOLOGIZE FOR  
WASTING YOUR TIME,  
RAMDE ZARWIN

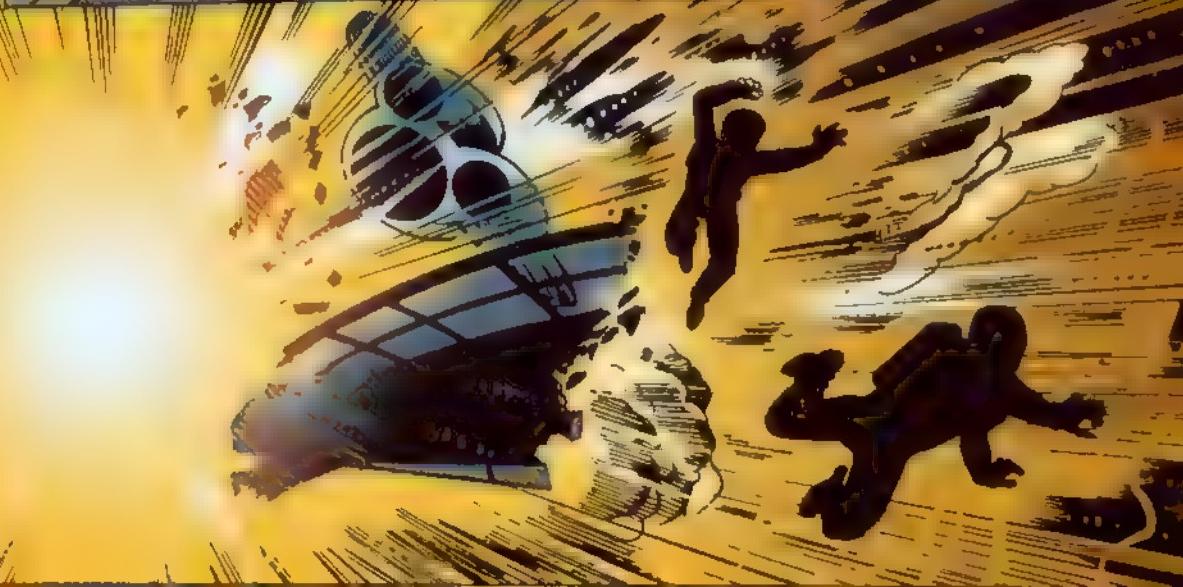
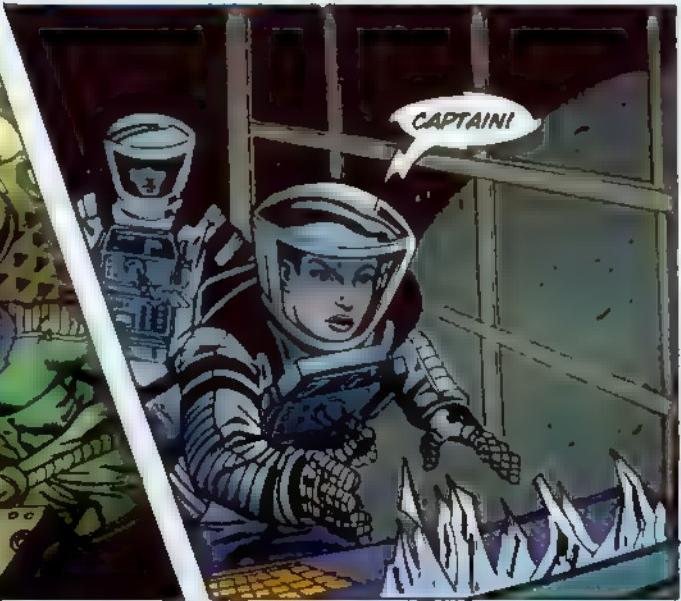
IT IS  
YOURS  
TO WASTE,  
GREAT ONE.

ZARWIN...? WHAT JUST...  
HAPPENED HERE?  
WHERE IS VALEN  
GOING?

I AM  
NOT  
SURE.

IT HAD  
SOMETHING  
TO DO WITH...  
A MISUNDER-  
STANDING.







ZARWIN!

S WHAT I AM TOLD TRUE? THAT YOUR  
PEOPLE HAVE ONCE AGAIN ATTACKED  
A HELPLESS RACE?

GREAT ONE!  
I HAVE JUST FINISHED  
THIS TRIBUTE TO YOU!  
IT IS OUR WORD FOR YOU...  
"ZONDAR," WHICH MEANS  
"GREAT ONE" IN OUR  
LANGUAGE TRANSLITERATED  
INTO WHAT WE'VE  
LEARNED OF YOUR  
TONGUE.

THIS AREA  
IS LARGELY  
UNFREQUENTED,  
SO I TOOK  
THE LIBERTY  
OF ...

HELPLESS,  
GREAT ONE?  
I HUMBLY  
DISAGREE.

THE YOLU, WHILE NOT THE  
MOST POWERFUL RACE THAT  
COULD ALLY WITH US, COULD  
CERTAINLY BE OF AID IN  
OUR WAR AGAINST  
THE SHADOWS.

BUT  
WHEN THEY  
WERE APPROACHED  
ABOUT JOINING, THEY  
TURNED A DEAF EAR.  
SAID THEY DID NOT  
WISH TO BECOME  
INVOLVED.

IT WAS  
AN INSULT TO  
YOU. WE COULD  
NOT TOLERATE SUCH  
ARROGANCE. AND SO,  
IN YOUR NAME,  
WE PUNISHED  
THEM.

IT WAS  
ONLY YOUR  
TEACHINGS,  
GREAT ONE,  
THAT .

MY TEACHINGS? HOW DID YOU COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?

OBVIOUSLY, GREAT ONE...

...THOSE WHO WILL NOT FOLLOW YOU INTO FIRE, INTO DARKNESS, INTO DEATH...

...THEY DO NOT DESERVE TO FOLLOW AND SO, INSTEAD, MUST PRECEDE YOU.

WE MUST BE TRUE TO OURSELVES, ABOVE ALL ELSE AND AS WE SEE FIT, WE WILL --

GET OUT. I WILL NOT HAVE INNOCENT BEINGS SLAUGHTERED IN MY NAME, I WILL NOT

WE CARE ONLY IN GLORIFYING YOUR NAME, VALEN --

BUT, YOU NEED US AS ALLIES...

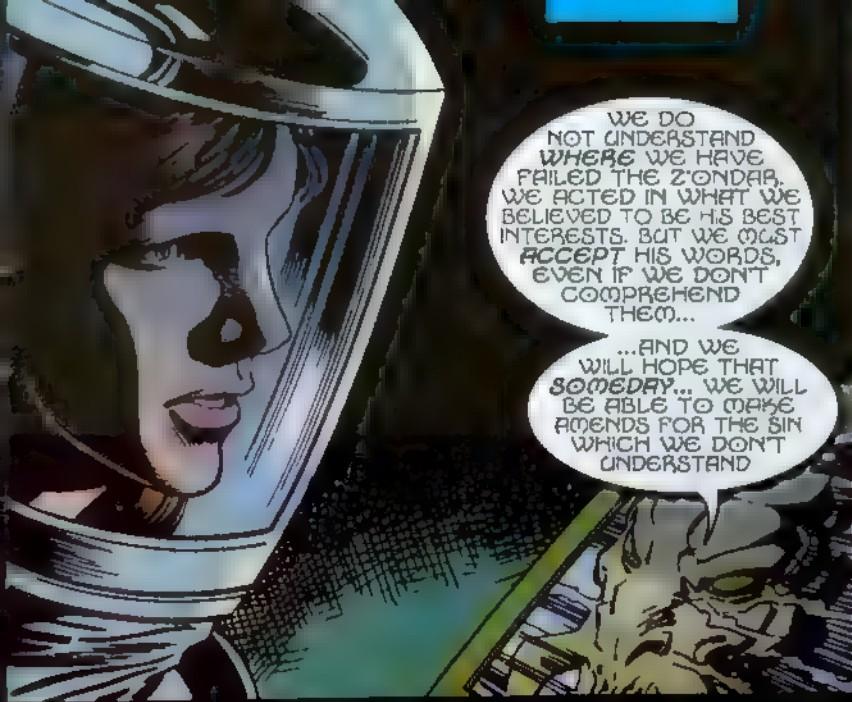
WE'LL MANAGE WITHOUT YOU NOW LEAVE.

"AND SO... WE WERE BANISHED FROM THE PRESENCE OF VALEN

"OUR FLEET GATHERED ITSELF... AND DEPARTED THE FLOATING HOME OF VALEN.

"WE WENT BACK TO OUR HOMeworld

"AND FROM THERE KEPT TRACK OF THE WAR AGAINST THE SHADOWS."



ALL RIGHT...  
PREPARE TO ROLL  
AN EXPLOSIVE IN  
THERE. THAT SHOULD  
FLUSH THEM OUT...  
OR BLOW THEM TO  
PIECES. EITHER  
WAY IS  
WORKABLE.

BAODSI!  
WE FOUND ONE,  
COMING TO TRY  
TO HELP THE  
OTHERS!

GOOD  
WORK.  
BRING IT  
HERE.

WAIT!  
LISTEN TO  
ME! I --

JOHN --!

DELENN!

JOHN



MAKE NO MISTAKE — THE TAK'CHA, AS THEY ARE APPARENTLY CALLED, ARE NOT EXACTLY A *CUDDLY* RACE.

THEY CONTINUE TO REGARD THE CAPTAIN, GARIBALDI AND ME WITH A DEGREE OF SUSPICION, BUT THEY WORSHIP DELENN, SO WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH AS THEY PREPARE TO BRING US OVER TO THEIR SHIP, TO TRANSPORT US BACK TO BABYLON 5.

APPARENTLY DELENN'S NAME APPEARED IN SACRED TEXTS OF THEIRS, WHEN A NOTED LEADER OF THEIRS, ZARWIN, RECOUNTED A MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND VALEN. SHE WAS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY TO THEM. ONE MYSTERY DOWN, TEN ZILLION TO GO.

5

DELENN... WE HAVE TO GO. OUR SHIP'S WAITING.

IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEY WORSHIPPED VALEN AS MUCH AS WE MINBARI EVER DID, JOHN. AND WE EACH REGARDED THIS STATION AS A LINK TO THE PAST... SAW EACH OTHER AS THREATS.

VALEN WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED THE IRONY OF THAT, I THINK... AND THE IRONY OF A RACE WHICH STILL REMAINS WARLIKE NONTHELESS PROVING A SALVATION.

I ONLY WISH I COULD...

I LED THEM INTO FIRE... INTO DARKNESS... INTO DEATH... AND THEY FOLLOWED ME WITHOUT HESITATION.

THEY ACCLAIM MY VICTORIES AND HAIL ME AS A GREAT LEADER. THEY SPEAK OF MY SUCCESSES AS IF THEY ARE AS INFINITE AS THE STARS.

AND YET... FOR ALL THAT I'VE ACCOMPLISHED... I LIE AWAKE, LISTENING TO THE SCREAMS OF THE DEAD AND DYING.

THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY GONE, AND THOSE WHO ARE YET TO BE BORN. A FEW WORDS FROM ME COULD AVERT THE EARTH-MINBARI CONFLICT. A WARNING TO DELENN OR DUKHAT...

BUT WITHOUT THE WAR THERE WOULD BE NO BABYLON 4 AND NO BABYLON 5. THERE WOULD BE NO RALLYING POINT AGAINST THE DARKNESS... AND THE SHADOWS WOULD WIN, NOW AND A THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW. I CANNOT DEVIATE FROM THE CIRCLE OF WHICH I AM A PART. I AM THE BEGINNING OF THE STORY, AS ZATHRAS SAID...

MY NAME IS VALEN...

AND I HAVE SERVED MY PEOPLE LIKE NO OTHER.

AND, A PRISONER OF IT... I DARE NOT CHANGE THE END.

"STILL... IT'S BEEN A GOOD LIFE... LIVES... OVER ALL. DELENN, CATHERINE, SUSAN, MICHAEL... IF ANY OF YOU SEE THIS SOMEHOW..."

"DON'T CRY FOR ME."



"FOR, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO HARD ON MYSELF. I'LL BE CONTENT TO LET HISTORY JUDGE ME, AND ALL THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN VALEN'S NAME."



"AND AS FOR ME... I'VE RECEIVED MY OWN REWARD..."

"...BECAUSE I'VE FOUND HER. AT LONG LAST..."



"I'VE FOUND... HER."

